

Mountain Chickadee

Poecile gambeli

Description

The Mountain Chickadee is a little bird, weighing about 11 g (0.4 ounce). It is 12.5-15 cm (5-6 inches) long and has a wingspan of 18-20 cm (7-8"). Like the Black-capped Chickadee, it has a black cap and bib. The distinctive feature of the Mountain Chickadee is the white line above its eye. Its primary colour is grey, with greyish white under parts and grey-buff sides and flanks. Its upper parts are solid grey, as is its forked tail. Eye colour is a range of shades of dark brown. The sexes are much alike. The Mountain Chickadee is a permanent resident of the Rocky Mountain and foothills regions, although can be seen east of that in the winter. They are considered to be non-migratory as they move seasonally within a small range. They prefer open, dry coniferous forests. They stay with one mate. Their nest is made of coarse materials and lined with soft materials (moss, grass, feathers, hair) and built in a tree snag or nest box. Both parents help with the 10-14 day incubation of the 5-12 white eggs with red markings laid.



FUN FACTS



- The Mountain Chickadee is less approachable than our locally more common Black-capped Chickadee
- Mountain Chickadees incubate their eggs for a week longer than Black-capped Chickadees.
- Outbreaks of tree-eating insects provides a feast of food for Mountain Chickadees!
- Mountain Chickadees only need to eat about 10 calories per day to survive!




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

 11555—85th Street NW, Calgary, AB T3R 1J3
 403-214-1312

 admin@calgarywildlife.org
 calgarywildlife.org

 @calgarywildlife
 @calgarywildlife
 @Calgary_wildlife